

DEMAND XXIII—UPLIFT OF BACKWARD COMMUNITIES.

Rajyasevapravina G. Parameswaran Pillai: Sir, I move for a supplementary grant of Rs. 5,000 under Demand XXIII—Uplift of Backward Communities. The object of this demand is to provide facilities for the pupils of backward communities in the matter of their boarding and lodging. For this purpose Government have proposed to start two hostels under their control, one at Kottayam in the north and the other at Nagercoil in the south. It is estimated that for the rest of the year, an amount of Rs. 5,000 is required. I hope that the House will be pleased to sanction this amount.

Mr. M. Govindan: I second the motion. In doing so I hope that one or two more such hostels be started.

Rajyasevapravina G. Parameswaran Pillai: This is only a first step in a fairly comprehensive programme.

Mr. V. Sankara Menon: Is it to impart education?

President: Very often members of the backward communities have no place to stay in.

Sahib Bahadur T. Mahomed Ismail: Are these hostels intended exclusively for the backward communities?

Rajyasevapravina G. Parameswaran Pillai: As a matter of fact, these hostels are intended each to accommodate 80 pupils; and the need for accommodation is very, very great so far as the pupils of the backward communities are concerned.

The motion was put and carried.

The Grant was made.

DEMAND XXIV—MEDICAL.

Mr. C. P. Gopala Panicker: Sir, I move for a grant of Rs. 9,000 under Demand XXIV—Medical. This amount is required to give credit to the Forest Department on account of the grant of timber, free of cost, to the Shashtiabdpooorthi Memorial Committee, Alleppey, for the construction of a new out-patient block and a general ward in the District Hospital there. The Committee took up the construction of the building and they have completed the work. The building is worth Rs. 26,000 and an amount of two or three thousand rupees more is expected to be spent by the committee for furnishing the buildings. As the invoice for the cost of supply was received only recently it was not possible to include this amount in the last year's budget. The building was handed over to Government in November last. The building is one of the best of its kind in the whole State. I request that the House will be pleased to sanction this grant.